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Commission on the Status of Women
Forty-ninth session
28 February-11 March 2005
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":
   (a) Review of gender mainstreaming in entities of the United Nations system;
   (b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;
   (c) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:
      (i) Review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";
      (ii) Current challenges and forward-looking strategies for the advancement and empowerment of women and girls.
4. Communications concerning the status of women.
5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.
6. Provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-ninth session.

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council provides that at the commencement of the first meeting of a regular session, the Commission shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairperson, one or more Vice-Chairpersons and such other officers as may be required. At its forty-eighth session, the Commission elected, in addition to a Chairperson, four Vice-Chairpersons, with one Vice-Chairperson having rapporteurial responsibilities.

In its resolution 1987/21, the Council recommended that, in order to enhance the effectiveness of the work of the Commission, the officers elected to the Bureau of the Commission should serve a term of office of two years. The officers elected at the forty-eighth session will continue to serve during the forty-ninth session.

In accordance with its decision 2002/234, the Council, in order to improve the work of the Commission and to ensure continuity in the work of its successive bureaux, decided that the Commission, starting with its forty-seventh session in 2003, immediately following the closure of its regular session, would hold the first meeting of its subsequent regular session for the sole purpose of electing the new Chairperson and other members of the Bureau, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council.

The first meeting of the forty-eighth session was held immediately following the closure of the forty-seventh session, at which point the Commission elected the Chairperson and other members of the Bureau to serve at the forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions of the Commission. After the closure of the forty-ninth session, the Commission will open the fiftieth session for the sole purpose of electing the new Chairperson and other members of the Bureau, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council and Council decision 2002/234.

The membership of the Commission expiring at the end of its forty-ninth through fifty-second sessions is presented in annex II to the present report. The membership of the Commission expiring at the end of its fiftieth through fifty-third sessions is presented in annex III.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure provides that the Commission shall, at the beginning of each session, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

The provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-ninth session of the Commission were approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2004/239.

Preparations for the forty-ninth session of the Commission were undertaken in accordance with its agreed conclusions 1996/1 on methods of work. Accordingly, the Bureau of the Commission held several meetings, as well as consultative briefings with all interested delegations on 23 June, 20 July and 14 September 2004 to consider the organization and methods of work for the session.

It is expected that time will be set aside for a high-level plenary. To ensure wide participation, it is recommended that individual interventions by Governments, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations entities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) be limited to five (5) minutes, and interventions on behalf of groups be limited to ten (10) minutes, as was the case at previous sessions. It is also recommended that as at previous sessions, interventions from NGOs with geographical location being taken into consideration, be integrated into the high-level plenary and that NGOs would also participate in each of the panels on the thematic issues.

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

(a) Review of mainstreaming in entities of the United Nations system

Review and appraisal of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

In accordance with the Beijing Declaration and its multi-year programme of work, the Commission will review the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" and current challenges and forward-looking strategies for the advancement and empowerment of women and girls.

Review of methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

The General Assembly, in paragraph 46 of its resolution 57/270 B, requested the functional commissions to examine their methods of work in order to better pursue the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, recognizing that there is no need for a uniform approach since each functional commission has its own specificity, while also noting that modern methods of work can better guarantee the review of progress made in implementation at all levels, on the basis of a report with recommendations to be submitted by the Secretary-General to each functional commission and relevant subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council on their methods of work, in accordance with the provisions defined by the respective outcomes and relevant decisions taken by each body; the functional commissions were requested to report to the Council no later than 2005 on the outcome of that examination.

At its forty-eighth session, the Commission on the Status of Women adopted decision 48/101 containing specific actions to enhance its working methods. The Commission decided to continue its discussion on these issues during the forty-ninth session of the Commission.

Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

In section III, paragraph 5, of its resolution 1996/6, the Council requested the Secretary-General to prepare annually, under item 3, a report on measures taken and progress achieved in the follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration

and Platform for Action and the progress achieved in mainstreaming a gender perspective within the United Nations system. This request was most recently reiterated in General Assembly resolution 59/168. The Commission will have before it the report requested.

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

In its resolution 2004/56 on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women, the Council requested the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and requested the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation and to assist Palestinian women by all available means, and to submit to the Commission at its forty-ninth session a report on the progress made in the implementation of that resolution. The Commission will have before it the report requested.

Situation of women and girls in Afghanistan

In its resolution 2004/10 on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan, the Council requested the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan and to submit to the Commission at its forty-ninth session a report on the progress made in the implementation of that resolution. The Commission will have before it the report requested.

Joint work plan on the human rights of women

In its resolution 39/5, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to see to the preparation of a joint work plan on the human rights of women for the then Centre for Human Rights and the Division for the Advancement of Women on an annual basis. In its resolution 2003/44, the Commission on Human Rights encouraged the Secretary-General to ensure implementation of the joint work plan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to continue to elaborate the plan, reflecting all aspects of work under way and the lessons learned, to identify obstacles/impediments and areas for further collaboration and to make it available to both the Commission on Human Rights and to the Commission on the Status of Women. The Commission will have before it the joint work plan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system

In its resolution 59/164 on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide an oral report to the Commission at its forty-ninth and fiftieth sessions on the implementation of that resolution, including by providing up-to-date statistics on the number and percentage of women in all organizational units and at all levels throughout the United Nations system. The Commission will hear an oral report by the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women on that resolution. The Commission will also have before it, for

information, the report of the Secretary-General to the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly on the status of women in the United Nations system.

Violence against women

In its resolution 50/166 on the role of the United Nations Development Fund for Women in eliminating violence against women, the General Assembly requested the Fund to include in its regular reports information on the establishment of a trust fund in support of national, regional and international actions to eliminate violence against women and to provide such information to both the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights. The Commission on the Status of Women will be provided with such information.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

In accordance with article 21.2 of the Convention, the reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women are transmitted to the Commission for its information. The report of the Committee on its thirtieth and thirty-first sessions and a note transmitting the results of the Committee's thirty-second session (10 to 28 January 2005) will be before the Commission for its information.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on measures taken and progress achieved in the follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" and in mainstreaming a gender perspective within the United Nations system (E/CN.6/2005/3)

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (E/CN.6/2005/4)

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan (E/CN.6/2005/5)

Report of the Secretary-General on the joint work plan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (E/CN.4/2005/69-E/CN.6/2005/6)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting information provided by the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/166 (E/CN.6/2005/7-E/CN.4/2005/70)

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the results of the thirty-second session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/CN.6/2005/CRP.1)

Documentation for information

Report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system (A/59/357)

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its thirtieth and thirty-first sessions (A/59/38)

Note by the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (A/59/135)

(b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men

In its resolution 1996/6, the Council decided that annually the Commission's agenda would include a sub-item 3 (b) on emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men and requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on emerging issues under that sub-item, as appropriate, at the request of the Commission or its Bureau. No report has been requested under this sub-item.

(c) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives

High-level round table

In its decision 46/101, the Commission on the Status of Women decided that, starting from its forty-seventh session, it would introduce the option of high-level round tables. It authorized the Bureau, after consultation with all interested States through the regional groups, to decide on the number, timing and theme of such round tables. At an informal meeting on 14 September 2004, the Commission decided that the theme of the high-level round table at the forty-ninth session would be "Innovations in institutional arrangements for promoting gender equality at national level". The Commission will have before it, under item 3 (c), a discussion guide on the round table.

Documentation

Discussion guide on the high-level round table. Note by the Bureau (E/CN.6/2005/CRP.2)

Thematic issues

In its resolution 2001/4, the Council decided on the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women for the period from 2002 to 2006, including a calendar for considering the implementation of strategic objectives and actions in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives. For 2005, the following two themes were identified: (i) Review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"; and (ii) Current challenges and forward-looking strategies for the advancement and empowerment of women and girls.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on review and appraisal of the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled

"Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" (merged with the report of the Secretary-General on the current challenges and forward-looking strategies for the advancement and empowerment of women and girls) (E/CN.6/2005/2)

4. Communications concerning the status of women

In its resolution 76 (V), the Council established a procedure by which the Commission would receive and consider communications relating to the status of women. In its resolution 304 I (XI), the Council amended resolution 76 (V) and requested the Secretary-General to compile, before each session of the Commission, a list of confidential and non-confidential communications, containing a brief indication of the substance of each communication.

In its resolution 1983/27, the Council reaffirmed the mandate of the Commission to consider confidential and non-confidential communications on the status of women, and authorized the Commission to appoint a working group to consider such communications and prepare a report thereon for the Commission.

In its resolution 1993/11, the Council reaffirmed that the Commission was empowered to make recommendations to the Council on what action should be taken on emerging trends and patterns of discrimination against women revealed by such communications.

In its decision 2002/235, the Council decided, in order to make the communications procedure of the Commission more effective and efficient:

(a) That the Commission, starting at its forty-seventh session, should appoint, at each session, the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women for the next session so that the members may meet to enable the secretariat to issue their report three working days before the adoption of the agenda by the Commission;

(b) To request the Secretary-General:

(i) To inform Governments about each communication pertaining to them that will be considered by the Commission and give them at least 12 weeks before the consideration of such communications by the Working Group, and

(ii) To ensure that the members of the Working Group receive the lists of communications in advance, including replies from Governments, if any, to be taken into account in preparing its reports for examination by the Commission.

At the closure of the forty-eighth session, the Commission appointed the members of the Working Group to serve at the forty-ninth session. The Commission will be called upon to appoint, before closure of the forty-ninth session, the members of the Working Group for the fiftieth session.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the confidential list of communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/2005/SW/Communications List No. 39)

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

The Commission will have before it a letter of the President of the Council on follow-up to the Council's policy guidance.

The Council, in its resolution 2001/27, invited its functional commissions to provide concise, action-oriented inputs to its annual high-level segment. The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat as an input to the 2005 high-level segment of the Council on "Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities".

Documentation

Letter dated 16 December 2004 from the President of the Economic and Social Council addressed to the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2005/8)

Note by the Secretariat as an input to the 2005 high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2005/CRP.4)

6. Provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Commission

Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Council resolution 1894 (LVII), and in accordance with Council decision 2004/239, the Commission will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its fiftieth session, with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each agenda item and the legislative authority for their preparation.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-ninth session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Commission shall submit to the Council a report on the work of its forty-ninth session.

Annex I

Proposed organization of work

Date/time	*Agenda item*	*Programme*
Monday, 28 February		**Opening of the session**
a.m.	**2 Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters**	**Introduction of reports followed by dialogue**
	3 Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"	**High-level plenary on review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly; and current challenges and forward-looking strategies for the advancement and empowerment of women and girls**
p.m.	**3 (c) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives**	**High-level round table — innovations in institutional arrangements for promoting gender equality at national level (*in parallel*)**
Tuesday, 1 March		
a.m.	**3 (*continued*)**	**High-level plenary**
p.m.	**3 (*continued*)**	**High-level plenary**
Wednesday, 2 March		
a.m.	**3 (c) Panel**	**Addressing the linkages between the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration: progress, gaps and challenges**
p.m.	**3 (c) Panel**	**Synergies between national-level implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**

Date/time	*Agenda item*	*Programme*
Thursday, 3 March		
a.m.	3 (*continued*)	High-level plenary
p.m.	3 (*continued*)	High-level plenary
Friday, 4 March		
a.m.		Observance of International Women's Day
p.m.	3 (c) Panel	Presentation of the review and appraisal processes at regional level — achievements, gaps and challenges
Monday, 7 March		
a.m.	3 (*continued*)	High-level plenary
p.m.	3 (*continued*)	High-level plenary
Tuesday, 8 March		Observance of International Women's Day (2 hours)
noon to 1 p.m.	5 Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions	
	6 Provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Commission	Introduction of proposals, including provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Commission
	3 (*continued*)	CSW working methods
p.m.	3 (c) Panel	Remaining challenges in relation to statistics and indicators, building on the discussions at the high-level round table organized at the forty-eighth session of the Commission in 2004 as well as available data from the *World's Women: Trends and Statistics* (2005) and the *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development* (2005)
Wednesday, 9 March		
a.m.	3 (c) Panel	Future perspectives on the promotion of gender equality: through the eyes of young women and men
p.m.	4 Communications concerning the status of women	Closed meeting to consider the report of the Working Group on Communications

Date/time	*Agenda item*	*Programme*
Thursday, 10 March		
a.m.	**3 (c) Panel**	**Integration of gender perspectives in macroeconomics**
p.m.	**3 (c) Panel**	**The role of regional and intergovernmental organizations promoting gender equality**
Friday, 11 March		
a.m.	**3 (*continued*)**	**Action on proposals**
	3 (closed)	**Action on outstanding issues**
p.m.	**7 Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-ninth session**	
		Closure of the forty-ninth session
		Opening of the fiftieth session
	1	**Election of officers**

Annex II

Membership of the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-ninth session (2004)*

(45 members; four-year term)

Membership	*Conclusion of forty-ninth, fiftieth, fifty-first and fifty-second sessions, respectively*
Algeria	2007
Argentina	2005
Armenia	2007
Azerbaijan	2005
Belgium	2007
Bolivia	2007
Botswana	2006
Burkina Faso	2006
Canada	2007
China	2008
Congo	2007
Cuba	2006
Dominican Republic	2008
El Salvador	2008
Gabon	2006
Germany	2005
Ghana	2008
Guatemala	2006
Guinea	2005
Hungary	2008
Iceland	2008
India	2007
Indonesia	2006
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2006
Japan	2005

Membership	*Conclusion of forty-ninth, fiftieth, fifty-first and fifty-second sessions, respectively*
Kazakhstan	2008
Malaysia	2006
Mauritius	2008
Netherlands	2005
Nicaragua	2006
Nigeria	2007
Pakistan	2005
Peru	2005
Republic of Korea	2006
Russian Federation	2007
South Africa	2006
Sudan	2006
Suriname	2008
Thailand	2007
Tunisia	2005
Turkey	2007
United Arab Emirates	2006
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2005
United Republic of Tanzania	2005
United States of America	2008

[a] Membership expires at the conclusion of the forty-ninth, fiftieth, fifty-first and fifty-second sessions in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008, respectively, as indicated.

Annex III

Membership of the Commission on the Status of Women at its fiftieth session (2005)[a]

(45 members; four-year term)

Membership	*Conclusion of fiftieth, fifty-first, fifty-second and fifty-third sessions, respectively*
Algeria	2007
Armenia	2007
Belgium	2007
Belize	2009
Bolivia	2007
Botswana	2006
Burkina Faso	2006
Canada	2007
China	2008
Congo	2007
Croatia	2009
Cuba	2006
Dominican Republic	2008
El Salvador	2008
Gabon	2006
Germany	2009
Ghana	2008
Guatemala	2006
Hungary	2008
Iceland	2008
India	2007
Indonesia	2006
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2006
Japan	2009
Kazakhstan	2008

Membership	*Conclusion of fiftieth, fifty-first, fifty-second and fifty-third sessions, respectively*
Malaysia	2006
Mali	2009
Mauritius	2008
Morocco	2009
Netherlands	2009
Nicaragua	2006
Nigeria	2007
Peru	2009
Qatar	2009
Republic of Korea	2006
Russian Federation	2007
South Africa	2006
Sudan	2006
Suriname	2008
Thailand	2007
Turkey	2007
United Arab Emirates	2006
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2009
United Republic of Tanzania	2009
United States of America	2008

[a] Membership expires at the conclusion of the fiftieth, fifty-first, fifty-second and fifty-third sessions in 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009, respectively, as indicated.